



# Housing Enhancement Grants Program

## Introduction

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Enhancement Grants offer funding in coordination with the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to eligible Washington State cities and counties to assist in the development or preservation of affordable housing projects. The purpose of the Housing Enhancement Grants is to streamline project financing and improve the feasibility and affordability of well-developed housing projects. The Washington State CDBG Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

## Funds Available

Approximately \$1,000,000 will be available in 2010 for Housing Enhancement Grants.

## Eligibility Guidelines

- Eligible applicants are Washington State cities, towns with population less than 50,000 or counties with population less than 200,000 that are not participants in a HUD Urban County Entitlement Consortium.
- Non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, and special purpose organizations such as public housing authorities, port districts, community action agencies, and economic development councils, are not eligible to apply directly to the CDBG Program for funding, but may be partners in projects and subrecipients of funding through eligible jurisdictions.
- Only projects applying for Housing Trust Fund dollars may apply for CDBG Housing Enhancement Grants. Housing Enhancement Grant requests must be identified as a budget source in the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) application and the CDBG Housing Enhancement Grant Sections 13A, B and C must be submitted with the HTF application.
- CDBG Housing Enhancement Grants are available for project costs that cannot be paid for using Housing Trust Fund (HTF) dollars, but are essential to the project's overall success. Eligible costs include off-site infrastructure that is essential to a housing project, and non-housing costs of projects that are an integral part of a comprehensive project.
- CDBG Housing Enhancement Grants may not be used for new housing construction, equipment, furnishings, personal property, or luxury items such as a swimming pool.
- Projects must principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

## Application Process

1. HTF staff review the application to determine if the project meets HTF threshold requirements and is ranked high for funding.
2. CDBG staff review the applications to determine eligibility and need of the local government and the project activity.
3. If the project is awarded HTF funds and meets the CDBG eligibility criteria, the local government is notified of the potential CDBG award and then must submit the remaining CDBG application, including public hearing documentation.
4. Once the full CDBG application is met, a CDBG Housing Enhancement Grant is awarded to the local government.

### For More Information:

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